

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01185 01 OF 02 181225Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 1185

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, MNUC, PARM, KS

SUBJECT: ADVANCE PLANNING FOR APRIL MEETING ON ENERGY AND
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

REF: (A) SEOUL 0900, (B) STATE 20557, (C) STATE 31712, (D) STATE
38217

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES INITIAL INDICATION ROK
EXPECTATIONS FOR APRIL ENERGY/SCIENCE COOPERATION MEETING
AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT COMMENTS BY FEBRUARY 25. IT WAS
DRAFTED PRIOR RECEIPT DEPARTMENT'S LATEST VERY HELPFUL
MESSAGE (REF D) BUT SHOULD STILL BE USEFUL AS GUIDE TO
PRELIMINARY ROK THINKING AND QUESTIONS. ANSWER QUESTION
POSED PARA 5, REF D APPROVED BELOW. HWE ARE CHECKING
RE MASON VISIT RAISED REF D AND WILL ADVISE. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES INDICATION REF B (AND D) THAT DEPARTMENT
HAS ALREADY BEGUN CONSIDERATION AND COORDINATION OF OUR POSITION
FOR PROPOSED APRIL MEETING WITH ROKS TO DISCUSS FUTURE
ENERGY AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE THIS
PROMPT EFFORT AS WELL AS EARLY MOVEMENT ON KORI II LOAN
(REF C) IS MOST APPROPRIATE, GIVEN ROK EXPECTATIONS,
HIGH PRIORITY THEY ATTACH TO SCIENCE-ENERGY COOPERATION,
AND THEIR DESIRE TO MOVE RAPIDLY NOW SO AS TO REACH
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01185 01 OF 02 181225Z

CONCRETE AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS IN APRIL. IN

RESPONSE MOST MINISTER CHOI'S DESIRE TO GET AS MUCH DONE AS POSSIBLE IN WAY OF PREPARATORY GROUND WORK AND TO FURNISH DEPARTMENT PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE WE HAVE TAKEN INITIAL SOUNDING AS TO ROK HOPES FOR MEETING WITH MOST ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU CHIEF YI PYONG-HWI. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES RESULTS WE PLAN TO HAVE FURTHER MEETING WITH MOST WHICH ERDA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM HENNOCH WILL ATTEND, FEBRUARY 26, HAND AT WHICH KOREANS WILL LAY OUT THEIR DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR MEETING AGENDA.

2. AT THIS POINT ROKS CONTEMPLATE THREE GENERAL AREAS OF DISCUSSION: (A) AGENDA TOPICS OUTLINED IN RECORD OF CHOI/KRATZER JANUARY 22-23 DISCUSSIONS; (B) RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH AS INDICATED REF (A) MOST HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY; (C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/ FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. MINISTER AND MOST OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR THAT WHILE THEY HOPE WE WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN THESE AREAS THEY DO NOT EXPECT US TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ALL THEY HAVE ASKED FOR. ON OTHER HAND THEY DO WISH US TO BE AS SPECIFIC AND FRANK AS POSSIBLE BEFORE MEETING ABOUT WHAT WE CAN AND CAN NOT DO.

3. RECORD OF DISCUSSION TOPICS: FOLLOWING IS INITIAL OUTLINE ROK THINKING ON TOPICS COVERED IN RECORD OF JANUARY 22-23 DISCUSSIONS:

(A) JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

KOREANS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT LEGAL BASIS ALREADY EXISTS FOR COMMUNICATION AND OTHER EXCHANGES IN ROK/US BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY BUT BELIEVE FORMAL CHANNEL OF EXCHANGE, I.E. COMMITTEE, TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT WOULD NOT ONLY BETTER ASSURE COMMUNICATION AND HELP AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT WOULD MAKE VISITS AND EXCHANGES EASIER FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW ADMINISTRATIVELY AND BUDGETARILY. THEY CONTEMPLATE SIGNING GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING (THEY SPOKE OF EXCHANGE OF MEMOS) WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH COMMITTEE ALONG LINES BINATIONAL COMMITTEES WE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01185 01 OF 02 181225Z

HAVE SET UP WITH OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS JAPAN. COMMITTEE WOULD BE HIGH LEVEL, WOULD MEET FORMALLY ONCE A YEAR AND WOULD HAVE LICENSE TO MAKE AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERIM MEETINGS AND WORK ASSIGNMENTS RS REQUIRED. SCIENCE ATTACHE AT EMBASSY SEOUL MIGHT PLAY KEY SECRETARIAT TYPE ROLE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO REACH FINAL WRITTEN AGREEMENT ON COMMITTEE AT APRIL MEETING.

(B) NUCLEAR REACTOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION,
AND MAINTENANCE

IN APRIL KOREANS WILL WISH TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA, I.E. WHAT U.Y. FIRMS LIKELY TO BE WILLING TO PROVIDE, WHAT USG CAN DO TO ASSDST, WHAT TRAINING USG INSTITUTIONS CAN APPROPRIATELY PROVIDE, AND EXIM SUPPORT ANTICIPATED.HPRIOR TO APRIL MEETING, IN FACT JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ROKS WISH TO KNOW IN DETAIL WHAT AREAS OF INFORMATION CAN BE TRANSFERRED; WHAT NOT. THEY NOW UNDERSTAND VARIOUS PARTS OF ENRICHMENT, REPROCESSING, AND HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY ALL OUT OF BOUNDS, BUT WISH MORE PRECISE DEFINITIONS IN THIS AREA.

(C) SISTER LAB RELATIONS

KOREANS ASSUME NO DIFFICULTY ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT SIMPLE LETTER EXCHANGES AT APRIL MEETING OR AT SOME OTHER TIME CAN RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIP FOR EXCHANGES OF STAFF, TRAINING,HAND VITAL SUPPLIES. THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AT EARLY DATE HOWEVER, IF WE HAVE ANY SPECIFIC THOUGHTS REGARDING RELATIONSHIPS,HWHAT LIMITS WOULD BE, HOW EXCHANGES WOULD BE FUNDED, AND WHETHER COST SHARING PROJECTS FEASIBLE. WILL INFORM MOST OF STATUS THIS PROJECT AS SET FORTH PARA 2 REF (D).

(D) FUEL FABRICATING

IN ADDITION TO TWO MILLION DOLLAR FRENCH FUEL FABRICATING PILOT PROJECT STLL UNDERWAY, ROKS CONTEMPLATING FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLAR COMMERCIAL FUEL FABRICATING JOINT VENTURE TO SUPPLY CANDU AND LIGHT WATER REACTORS. FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR COMMERCIAL PROJECT ARE DUE TO BEGIN IN 1977,HAND CONSTRUCTION WILL START IN 1978,HLASTING UNTIL 1981/82, ROUGHLY TIME OF
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PAGE 04 SEOUL 01185 01 OF 02 181225Z

COMPLETION OF FIRST CANDU REACTOR. IN 1971/72 ROKS SAY THEY HAD FRUITFUL INITIAL TALKS WITH US FIRMS (NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC)HABOUT POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURE IN FUEL FABRICATING, AS WELL AS REPROCESSING, BUT TALKS SUBSEQUENTLY RAN INTO DIFFICULTY, ROKS ASSUME BECAUSE USG BLOCKED THEM, (OUR FILES ARE SILENT ON THIS QUESTION, BUT OBVIOUSLY COMMERCIAL REASONS MAY GOVERN). THEY WISH ASSURANCES OF FULL US SUPPORT IN THIS AREA AND AS MUCH INFORMATION ON POSSIBILITY MAKING COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AS WE CAN MAKE AVAILABLE.

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01185 02 OF 02 181129Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 1185

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(E) REPROCESSING

ROKS WISH DEFINITION OF REPROCESSING TRAINING THAT
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT APRIL MEETING.

(F) REACTOR SAFETY AND REGULATORY COOPERATION
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH ROK
EMBASSY, WASHINGTON SUBMITTED PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT ON
THIS SUBJECT TO NRC AT END JANUARY. ROKS WOULD LIKE
EARLY REACTION TO THEIR DRAFT AND TO SIGN REGULATORY
AGREEMENT AT APRIL MEETING. (IF MR. MASON VISITS PER REF D.
HE PRESUMABLY COULD COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION).

(G) GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

KOREANS FORWARDED TEXT OF A BROAD UMBRELLA TYPE DRAFT
AGREEMENT THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY "A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO" AND
SUGGEST US TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT. FROM PRELIMINARY
SOUNDING IT APPEARS ROKS WOULD FIND SUCH A BROAD AGREEMENT
USEFUL TO FACILITATE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AND TO HAVE BASIS FOR MAKING BUDGET
ALLOCATIONS. THEY WISH TO MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS ON THIS AS
POSSIBLE BEFORE APRIL MEETING. FOR CONVENIENCE COPY THEIR DRAFT
PROPOSAL BEING FORWARDED SEPTEL.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01185 02 OF 02 181129Z

(H) REACTOR AND NUCLEAR FUEL EXPORTS

ROKS ANXIOUS TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANTICIPATE SCHEDULE FOR KORI II LOAN. ON FUEL ENRICHMENT SERVICES THEY WISH RECEIVE AT APRIL MEETING AS MUCH DEFINITION AS POSSIBLE OF DELIVERY GUARANTEES.

4. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: MOST IS JUST NOW IN PROCESS OF WORKING ON PLANS FOR RESROUCE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, ITS OBJECTIVES AND CONTEMPLATED PROGRAMS. ROKS WILL, HAPPAARENTLY FOR TIME BEING, CONCENTRATE ON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND PILOT PLANT URANIUM EXTRACTION. MOST OFFICIALS HOPE TO HAVE PRELIMINARY PLANNING READY WITH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE AREAS OF U.S. COOPERATION AT FEB. 26 MEETING NOTED PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY, BUT IF IN MEANTIME DEPARTMENT HAS ANY COMMENT OR SUGGESTION TO HELP ROKS CHANNEL THEIR THINKING TOWARD FEASIBLE AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY COOPERATION AND/OR URANIUM DEVELOPMENT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: ROKS ANTICIPATE THAT SUPPORT FOR COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES INDICATED ABOVE WILL BE ON MUTUAL COST SHARING BASIS IN PART BUT THEY DO SLE NEED FOR TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR TO FINANCE TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. EMBASSY AGREES ON PAST USEFULNESS OF FUNDING IN SCIENTIFIC AREA AND GIVES IT HIGH PRIORITY.

6. FINANCING: MONEY IS LIKELY TO BE A PROBLEM SINCE THE ROKG IS PERENNIALY SHORT AND SINCE ITOIS LIKELY TO BE PERCEIVED AS ANOTHER MEASURE OF HOW WE PERFORM ON OUR COMMITMENT. SINCE AID TOLD CONGRESS THAT IT HAS PHASED OUT CONCESSIONAL AID THIS YEAR AND SINCE MOST OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED, WE WOULD NEED TO ASK CONGRESS FOR A NEW APPROPRIATION TO FINANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, IF AID IS TO BE THE SOURCE; MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND AID WOULD BE LIKELY TO INSIST THAT THE MONEY BE A LOAN. EXIM OR SIMILAR LOAN FINANCING WILL ALSO BE REQUESTED PRINCIPALLY FOR GENERATING AND FUEL FABRICATION FACILITIES. MOST IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01185 02 OF 02 181129Z

HEARD OF EXIM'S EXPOSURE PROBLEM, BUT OTHERS IN THE ROKG WILL, AND WILL EXPECT THAT MUCH OF THE NUCLEAR FINANCING WILL BE ADDITIONAL TO THE PROJECTS WHICH THE ROKG HAS PUT ON ITS PRIOTITY LIST.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE ABOVE OUTLINE IS RESULT STRICTLY

TENTATIVE AND INFORMAL REVIEW ROK THINKING AT WORKING LEVEL
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE INITIAL REACTION AND COMMENTS
ON VARIOUS ITEMS AND QUESTIONS OUTLINED PRIOR TO OUR NEXT
INFORMAL MEETING WITH MOST, FEBRUARY 26.
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